

and by the persons prescribed in the Act of July 8, 1940 (54 Stat. 745; 25 U. S. C., 1946 edition, sec. 380, as amended): *Provided*, That if the authority of the Secretary under this section is delegated to any subordinate official, then any heir or devisee shall have the right to appeal the action of any such official to the Secretary under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe.

SEC. 3. The Act of March 3, 1909 (35 Stat. 783; 25 U. S. C. 396) is amended by inserting before the period at the end thereof the following proviso: “: *Provided*, That if the said allottee is deceased and the heirs to or devisees of any interest in the allotment have not been determined, or, if determined, some or all of them cannot be located, the Secretary of the Interior may offer for sale leases for mining purposes to the highest responsible qualified bidder, at public auction, or on sealed bids, after notice and advertisement, upon such terms and conditions as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe. The Secretary of the Interior shall have the right to reject all bids whenever in his judgment the interests of the Indians will be served by so doing, and to readvertise such lease for sale”.

SEC. 4. No rent or other consideration for the use of land leased under this Act shall be paid or collected more than one year in advance, unless so provided in the lease.

SEC. 5. The Secretary of the Interior shall approve no lease pursuant to this Act that contains any provision that will prevent or delay a termination of Federal trust responsibilities with respect to the land during the term of the lease.

SEC. 6. Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to repeal any authority to lease restricted Indian lands conferred by or pursuant to any other provision of law.

Approved August 9, 1955.

Public Law 256

CHAPTER 616

AN ACT

August 9, 1955
[S. 56]

Authorizing construction of certain public works on the Mississippi River for the protection of Saint Louis, Missouri.

Flood protec-
tion.
St. Louis, Mo.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the project for flood protection at Saint Louis, Missouri, is hereby authorized substantially as recommended by the Chief of Engineers in Senate Document Numbered 57, Eighty-fourth Congress, at an estimated cost of \$123,020,000.

Appropriation.

SEC. 2. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Approved August 9, 1955.

Public Law 257

CHAPTER 617

AN ACT

August 9, 1955
[S. 72]

To provide that certain lands acquired by the United States shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture as national forest lands.

Lincoln National
Forest, N. Mex.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That those certain lands situated within the boundaries of the Lincoln National Forest, New Mexico, which were conveyed to the United States by the State

of New Mexico by deeds dated December 3, 1951, and recorded in book 142 at pages 547 to 556, inclusive, records of Otero County, New Mexico, in exchange for lands of the United States pursuant to the Act of June 28, 1934 (48 Stat. 1269; 43 U. S. C. 315g), as amended, are hereby made parts of said Lincoln National Forest and hereafter shall be subject to all laws, rules, and regulations applicable to that national forest.

Approved August 9, 1955.

Public Law 258

CHAPTER 618

AN ACT

August 9, 1955
[S. 464]

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue patents for certain lands in Florida bordering upon Indian River.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior shall issue patents for the public lands erroneously omitted from the survey which are situated between the position of the record meander line represented on the plat approved March 10, 1845, and the actual shoreline of the Indian River in sections 11, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, and 36, township 27 south, range 37 east, Tallahassee Meridian, Florida, to persons who hold such public lands in good faith and in peaceful adverse possession, if they or their predecessors in interest have been issued patents, prior to January 1, 1954, for the upland tracts adjoining such erroneously omitted lands. Payment to the United States shall be made for lands so patented at the same price per acre as that at which the land included in the original patent was purchased, but in no case less than \$1.25 per acre. No patent shall issue for any tract unless application for the tract is made by a qualified person within one year from the date of enactment of this Act. The Secretary shall issue no patents until the conclusion of such period. The Secretary may, by public sale at not less than the appraised value or under any appropriate public land law, dispose of any tract of public land subject to this Act which is not applied for by a qualified person within the one-year period.

Florida.
Land patents.

SEC. 2. Upon the filing of a plat of resurvey under section 1 of this Act, the Secretary shall give such notice as he finds appropriate by newspaper publication or otherwise of the opening of the lands to purchase under this Act.

SEC. 3. Nothing in this Act shall affect valid existing rights.

Approved August 9, 1955.

Public Law 259

CHAPTER 619

AN ACT

August 9, 1955
[S. 463]

To authorize the issuance of commemorative medals to certain societies of which Benjamin Franklin was a member, founder, or sponsor in observance of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of his birth.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in commemoration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin occurring on January 17, 1956, and in connection with the observance and celebration of that event, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to have struck seventy-one bronze medals of an appropriate design and inscription and to provide for

Benjamin Frank-
lin societies.
Commemorative
medals.